

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00

SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /099 W

-----102303 150526Z /17

R 150513Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO DOE GERMANTOWN MD

DOE WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 7896

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 08632

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS DOE REPS & ACDA REP WITH PNC ON REPROCESSING
PLANT STATUS AND PLANS

DOE FOR CUNNINGHAM, SIEVERING, BENGELSDORF

STATE FOR BORIGHT

ACDA FOR ROCKLIN

1. J. LEARY AND W. HENOCHE (DOE) AND G. BRAY (ACDA) VISITED TOKAI-
MURA REPROCESSING PLANT ON MAY 12, 1978 TO DISCUSS JAPANESE EXPERI-
ENCE ON REPROCESSING, COPROCESSING DEVELOPMENT, AND CO-CONVERSION
DEVELOPMENT.

2. MAIN PLANT HAS PROCESSED 3.3 MTU JPDR FUEL OF LOW ACTIVITY,
PLUS 4.7 TE BWR FUEL FROM FUKUSHIMA-I-1 AT 9390 MWDIT AVERAGE
BURNUP. HAVE ABOUT 23 KG PU TOTAL ISOTOPES IN STORAGE. ARE NOW
STARTING THIRD CAMPAIGN ON 6 MTU MIHAMA-2 PWR FUEL AT 12,120 MWD/T
AVERAGE BURNUP. THE FUEL AVERAGES 4 YEAR COOLED.

3. IN OTL PILOT PLANT TESTS ON COPROCESSING, PNC HAS COMPLETED
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4 TESTS OF THIRD PU CYCLE COPROCESSING FLOWSHEET AND THREE TESTS
OF SICOND COPARTITIONING CYCLE. HAVE VARIED FLOWSHEET PARAMETERS
OF ACIDITY, FLOW RATES, ETC. WITH LIMITED SUCCESS. INITIAL TARGET
IS PU/U RATIO OF 1/1, WITH RATIO OF 1/3 IN LATER TESTS.

4. CO-CONVERSION BY CODENITRATION TESTS HAVE BEEN STARTED IN PU
FACILITY, BUT ALL RUNS TO DATE CONTAINED ONLY URANIUM. PNC VERY

OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ANTICIPATED SUCCESS OF NEW MICROWAVE HEATING OF NITRATE SOLUTION, CLAIMING GOOD PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS AND NO OFF-GAS PROBLEMS. FIRST RUNS WITH BOTH U AND PU PLANNED TO START IN APRIL 1979, LEAVING LITTLE TIME BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1979 DECISION.

5. COPRECIPITATION ALSO BEING TESTED AT TOKAI WORKS, WITH U AND PU RUNS PLANNED TO START IN APRIL 1979.

6. EARLY CLOSE INTERACTION BETWEEN US AND JAPAN ON COPROCESSING AND COCONVERSION IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1977 IN TOKAI REPROCESSING PLANT.

7. PRESENT R&D BUDGET FOR CONVERSION IS \$4 MILLION DOLLARS UP FOUR FOLD FROM LAST YEAR. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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